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EXAMINER

CHANG, AUDREY Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2872

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/990,237

Applicant(s)

SUGANUMA, HIROSHI

Examiner

Audrey Y. Chang

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on **March 3, 2006** has been entered.
2. This Office Action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on February 8, 2006, which has been entered into the file.
3. By this amendment, the applicant has amended claims 1 and 9.
4. Claims 1-17 remain pending in this application.
5. The rejections to claims under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, set forth in the previous Office Action concerning newly added matters STILL hold.

Specification

6. The substitute specification filed on February 8, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

7. The amendment filed on **September 14, 2005** is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: **claim 1 has been amended** to include "Fourier transformation section that performs Fourier transformation of image data associated with said light" **Claim 3 has been amended** to include the phrase "the second scan unit scanning the modulated light in said arraying direction". **Claim 7 has been amended** to include the features concerning the "scanning the modulated light in said first

Art Unit: 2872

direction and in a second direction” where in the first direction is spatial modulation direction of the light.

Claim 7 also has been amended to include “means for receiving image data corresponding to the coherent light”. **Claim 8 has been amended** to include the phrase “Fourier transforming image data associated with said light”. **Claim 13 has been amended** to include the phrase “scanning ... said *first* direction”.

The specification **FAILS** to give support for the light being *modulated* by the spatial modulator also being transformed by Fourier transformation. The light used to operate the display apparatus such as the laser light sources (31a to 31c, Figure 4) do not contain image information and are not be Fourier transformed in anyway. If they are, then the image display apparatus will not be able to provide *visible* image, for Fourier transformation will transform the wave front into a non-spatial space. The Fourier transformation of the image data therefore has nothing to do with the coherent light sources (31a to 31c). The coherent light **does not contain** any image information at all. If they do then the spatial light modulator is not needed for the display apparatus.

The applicant is also reminded that the direction of scanning is the actual directions of the light incident on the diffuser, (Figure 4 of the instant application). Since the diffuser (37) assuming to be two dimensional and is perpendicular to the surface of the modulator GLV (32), the scanning direction of the light **CANNOT** be parallel to the direction of the modulation (or so called first direction in claim 13) or arraying direction, since if this is the case, the modulated light **WILL NOT** be able to reach the diffuser. **Applicant is respectfully noted that although the specification discloses scanning in two directions however the two directions are not the directions referred in the claims.**

The specification further fails to teach to have a “means for receiving image data *correspond* to the coherent light”. Image data receiving **has nothing** to do with the coherent light, (as shown in Figure 4).

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

9. **Claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph**, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The reasons for rejection based on newly added matters are set forth in the paragraph above.

10. **Claims 1-5, 7-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph**, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claims 1, 7, and 8 recite the features “a light source radiating (coherent light)”, “image data corresponding to the coherent light” and “Fourier transformation section that performs Fourier transformation of the image data associated with said light” or “Fourier transforming image data associated with said light”. The specification and the claims however **fail** to teach that the Fourier transformation is performed on the light source (31a to 31c, Figure 4) which is used to *operate* the display apparatus. The grating light valve (GLV) is **used during operation** of the apparatus to **modulate** the light beams generated by the laser light sources to make the light beams after strike the GLV to have the image data imparted upon. In order to achieve such the image data has to be **ALREADY** displayed on the spatial light modulator which means the Fourier transformation function as shown in Figure 8 has to be **ALREADY** finished. The input image data indicated in Figure 8 is **NOT** provided by the light sources

Art Unit: 2872

(31a to 31c) to operate the display apparatus. The coherent light provided by the laser light sources DO NOT have any image information and any Fourier transformation performed on the light beams from the laser light sources will make it a point, (for instance Fourier transformation between spatial space and spatial frequency space), if the light beam is a plane wave. The applicant seems to have confused the step in *preparing* the image to be displayed on the GLV and to modulate the light beam and the **operation** of the actual display apparatus. If the light beam generated from the light source used to operate the display apparatus **ALREADY** have image data associated with it then the GLV is not needed to be there to provide the image data.

The Fourier transformation therefore **cannot** be performed on the light beams or coherent light beams generated from the light sources.

Furthermore the specification fails to teach the “Fourier transformation of image data” is a transformation function from what to what. Transformation must be transformation from one thing to another however the specification fails to teach such which make the transformation non-enable. A Fourier transformation is a **mathematical** transformation of a function from one space (such as spatial space) to another space (such as wave number space), it is not clear what kind of the transformation is being done here and the transformed image data is in *what domain space*. It is important to know such since the image data function in one domain space will have *recognizable* image in a different domain space will not have *recognizable* image. It is therefore not clear if the transformed image data is recognizable or not by the naked eyes, the claims and the specification **FAIL** to teach such to make it clear and to make any Fourier transformed image be viewed as recognizable image.

Clarifications are certainly required.

Claim Objections

11. Claims 1-17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

(1). The phrase “image data associated with the said light during operation” or “image data corresponding to coherent light” recited in **claims 1, 7 and 8** are confusing and wrong. It is not clear how could the image data be “associated” or “corresponding” with the light since it appears the Fourier transformation is **done before** the light even reaches the spatial modulator? How does this *association* occurs before the light even exists. What is this Fourier transformation and what is the transformed image data as relate to image data? Where does this image data come from? Why does the transformation needed? Can this *transformed* image be *viewed* by the observer? What is this “spatial modulator” and does it *modulate* the light or not? What are these “modulation elements” how do they relate to the spatial modulator recited before? Furthermore, how does this transformed image data relate to the rest of the elements of the display apparatus? The image display apparatus without the controller only discloses to scan **the light** (what is this light?) back and forth or something. No workable image display apparatus has been disclosed in the claims.

(2). The phrase “during operation of the device” recited in various claims is confusing and indefinite since it is not clear what is considered to be the “operation of the device”. The claims seem to recite two different operations of the device, one is for preparing the image data for the spatial light modulator and the other is the operation for making actual image display using scanning unit.

(3). The phrase “scan unit axis” recited in various claims is confusing and indefinite since it is not clear if this referred to the scanning direction or the rotational axis of the scanning unit. *This phrase has been objected in the previous Office Action.*

(4). The phrase “Fourier surface” recited in amended claim 6 is confusing since it is not clear what is this phrase referred to? Is this referred to the “Fourier plane” which is the focal plane of the Fourier lens or the surface of the Fourier lens? Figures 4 and 5, fails to disclose that the diffuser is at the focal plane of the Fourier lens. It is therefore not clear what is considered to be this Fourier surface? *It is being examined as any surface that at the downstream of the Fourier transformation lens.*

Art Unit: 2872

(5). The phrase “means for receiving image data corresponding to the coherent light” recited in **claim 7** is completely confusing and indefinite since it is not clear how does the image data be received “*corresponding to the coherent light*”. Also it appears the image data and the “means for receiving image data” has *nothing to do* with the rest of the elements of the image display apparatus. The claim therefore is incomplete.

(6). The phrase “modulating the coherent light in a first direction” recited in **claims 7 and 8** is confusing since it is not clear what is considered to be the direction for the modulation. The modulator has modulating element arranged in a X-Y plane of the modulator yet the incident light travels in Z direction, so which direction is considered to be the “first direction” for modulation. Without definitely specifying the first direction, it is then indefinite to determine the scanning directions recited in later part of the claims.

(7). The phrase “Fourier transforming image data associated with said light” recited in **claim 8** is completely wrong and confusing since the image data is NOT associated with the coherent light at all when transformation is performed. Furthermore, there is no logical connection between this transformed image data with the rest of the image display. This claim therefore is incomplete.

(8). The phrase “so that the light from the light source is reflected by the polygon mirror and the hologram device in this order” recited in claim 9 is confusing since it is not clear how does this scan unit and *this order* is possible to scan the light in a first direction as required by the based claim 1. It appears that the light will be scanned in at least two directions.

(9). It is not clear if the rotation of the modulator, as recited in claim 14, achieves the scanning function as stated in its based claim. The objection is *repeated* from the previous Office Action.

The claim language as stands now are *confusing* and the elements in the claims are *loosely related to each other* that fail to provide **logical relationship** to makes the scopes of the claims are clear and

Art Unit: 2872

indefinite. The applicant is *respectfully requested* to correct **all** the discrepancies and errors in the claims to make them in comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, paragraphs.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. **Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent issued to Bloom et al (PN. 6,215,579) in view of the patent issued to Liu (PN. 6,043,652).**

Bloom et al teaches an *image display system* (400, Figure 14) wherein the system is comprised of a *light source having LEDs* (404R, 404G, 404B) for *generating laser beams having wavelengths in predetermined ranges of red, green and blue color*. The laser beams illuminate a *Grating Light Valve* (402), which is an *one-dimensional spatial light modulator*, (please see Figure 10 for its one dimensional arrangement) for modulating the laser beams. The modulated laser beams are then *scanned* by a *scanning mirror* (432) to the *direction* and then the location of an observer (434) for displaying **an image**, (please see Figure 14, and columns 7-12). **Bloom** et al teaches that the one-dimensional grating light valve has a plurality of *one-dimensionally arrayed elements* (200, Figures 7-18) that each of the elements has a *top surface* defined between the post position (110) and the top surface is selected to move upward and downward for modulating the light. The elements are *selectively* driven by applying the voltage and which means they could be independently driven.

Art Unit: 2872

Claim 1 recites the features include a controller including a clock, a Fourier transformation section and a spatial modulator section. **Claim 1** has further been amended to include the feature concerning the connection of the clock to the grating light valve and driving the grating light valve based on the timing of the reference signal generated from clock.

Bloom et al teaches the display apparatus comprises a *control circuitry* (440, Figure 14) that is arranged to receive video data or image data *coupled* to the GLV array for using the image data or video data to *operate* the elongated GLV elements (200), which therefore includes the “*spatial modulation section*” for driving the modulation elements or the GLV elements (200). The electronic control circuitry also is *coupled* to the scanning mirror drive unit (436) to *synchronize* the display of sequential lines which is a cooperation between the GLV and scanning mirror, this means certain kind of *clock* with *reference signal* is included for achieving this synchronization, (please see column 10, lines 43-59). This reference however does not teach about having a Fourier transformation section for Fourier transforming the image data. However it is not clear what is this transformation for and how does it affect the image data. This transformation is therefore being examined as arbitrary *image processing step*. It is very well known in the art to apply Fourier transformation on image data in the process of processing the image data to better fit for the display purpose as demonstrated by **Liu** wherein a Fourier transformation (224, Figure 5) is performed in the process of processing the image data before it is fed to the display device (230, Figure 5). Fourier transformation has the advantage of reducing data points for processing. It would then have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the teachings of **Liu** to include such process in the display apparatus of **Bloom et al** for the advantage of reducing data points for processing before being displayed by the GLV so that better image quality can be achieved.

14. Claims 7-8 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent issued to Kajiki (PN. 5,694,235) in view of the patent issued to Liu (PN. 6,043,652).

Art Unit: 2872

Kajiki teaches a *three dimensional image display apparatus*, (Figure 9) that is comprised of a *light source array* (17) for radiating coherent light, a *spatial light modulator* (19), that has the function of spatially modulating light of the source array in a *one-dimensional fashion*, (please see the one-dimensional arrangement of the modulated light from the modulator) and a *vertical scanning unit* (4) and a *polygon mirror scanning unit* (3) for scanning the modulated light to a predetermined direction of the observer (21) to enable three dimensional image observation, (please see columns 7 and 9). **Kajiki** teaches that the *vertical scanner* (4) and a *horizontal scanner* (3), which is a *polygonal mirror*, have scanning axes that are orthogonal to each other. The horizontal scanner (3) allows the horizontal parallax effect of the image is established and the vertical scanner (4) allows the vertical parallax effect of the image is established, (please see Figure 4). It is implicitly true that the directions of the scanning from both of the scanners, which referred to the actual direction of the light after the scanners, are also orthogonal to each other and to the modulation elements, for creating two-dimensionally *extended* image at the viewer position. With regard to claim 13, **Kajiki** teaches that the two scanners have different scanning speeds, (please column 9, lines 45-54).

Claim 7 recites the feature “means for receiving image data corresponding to the coherent light” that is **not** supported by the specification. It is implicitly true that there must be means for receiving image data to allow the image data be displayed used by the modulator to modulate the coherent light, (please see Figure 9).

Claim 8 recites the phrase “Fourier transforming image data associated with said light” is not supported by the specification since the image data is not associated with the light.

The feature concerning the “modulating is controlled in part according to a Fourier transformation of said image data” is indefinite and is rejected for the reasons stated above and it can only be examined in the broadest interpretation. This transformation is therefore being examined as arbitrary image processing step. It is very well known in the art to apply Fourier transformation on image data in

Art Unit: 2872

the process of processing the image data to better fit for the display purpose as demonstrated by Liu wherein a Fourier transformation (224, Figure 5) is performed in the process of processing the image data before it is fed to the display device (230, Figure 5). Fourier transformation has the advantage of reducing data points for processing. It would then have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the teachings of Liu to include such process in the display apparatus of Kajiki for the advantage of reducing data points for processing before being displayed by the spatial modulator so that better image quality can be achieved.

With regard to claim 14, these references however do not teach explicitly to rotate modulator yet it is not clear if this means the rotation of the modulator achieve the scanning function. Since scanning of the modulated light is the essential criterion for the stereoscopic image display to occur, to use a scanner or to rotate the modulator itself will achieve the same scanning function, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the arrangement to rotate the modulator for achieving the scanning function for the benefit of eliminating the needs of the scanners.

15. Claims 1-5 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent issued to Kajiki (PN. 5,694,235) in view of the patents issued to Bloom et al (PN. 6,215,579) and Liu (PN. 6,043,652).

Kajiki teaches a *three dimensional image display apparatus*, (Figure 9) that is comprised of a *light source array* (17) for radiating coherent light, a *spatial light modulator* (19), that has the function of modulating light of the source array in a *one-dimensional fashion*, (please see the one-dimensional arrangement of the modulated light from the modulator) and a *vertical scanning unit* (4) and a *polygon mirror scanning unit* (3) for scanning the modulated light to a predetermined direction of the observer (21) to enable three-dimensional image observation, (please see columns 7 and 9).

This reference has met all the limitations of the claims with the exception that it does not teach explicitly that the spatial light modulator that modulates light in one-dimensional manner is a grating light valve (GLV) and does not teach explicitly that it has a plurality of one-dimensionally arrayed elements having top surfaces and the entire top surface of each elements is selectively moves upward and downward in the operation of the display. However grating light valve (GLV) is one of well known and widely used spatial light modulators in the art, as explicitly taught by **Bloom**. **Bloom** et al teaches an *image display system* (400, Figure 14) wherein the system is comprised of a *light source having LEDs* (404R, 404G, 404B) for *generating laser beams* to illuminate a *Grating Light Valve* (402), which is an *one-dimensional spatial light modulator*, (please see Figure 10 for its one dimensional arrangement) for modulating the laser beams. The modulated laser beams are then *scanned* by a *scanning mirror* (432) to the *direction* and then the location of an observer (434) for displaying **an image**, (please see Figure 14, and columns 7-12). **Bloom** et al teaches that the *one dimensional grating light valve* has a plurality of *one-dimensionally arrayed elements* (200, Figures 7-18) that each of the elements has a *top surface* defined between the post position (110) and the top surface is selected to move upward and downward for modulating the light. The elements are *selectively* driven by applying the voltage and which means they could be independently driven as desired. It would then have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the teachings of **Bloom** to make the one dimensional modulator of **Kajiki** a grating light valve having the structure explicitly stated above for the benefit of allowing the modulation of the light from the light source array with greater efficiency and control which therefore ensure the image display quality.

Claim 1 recites the features include a controller including a clock, a Fourier transformation section and a spatial modulator section. **Claim 1 has further been amended** to include the feature concerning the connection of the clock to the grating light valve and driving the grating light vale based on the timing of the reference signal generated from clock .

Art Unit: 2872

Bloom et al teaches the display apparatus comprises a *control circuitry* (440, Figure 14) that is arranged to receive video data or image data *coupled* to the GLV array for using the image data or video data to *operate* the elongated GLV elements (200), which therefore includes the “*spatial modulation section*” for driving the modulation elements or the GLV elements (200). The electronic control circuitry also is *coupled* to the scanning mirror drive unit (436) to *synchronize* the display of sequential lines which is a cooperation between the GLV and scanning mirror, this means certain kind of *clock* with *referee signal* is included for achieving this synchronization, (please see column 10, lines 43-59). This reference however does not teach about having a Fourier transformation section for Fourier transforming the image data. However it is not clear what is this transformation for and how does it affect the image data. This transformation is therefore being examined as arbitrary image processing step. It is very well known in the art to apply Fourier transformation on image data in the process of processing the image data to better fit for the display purpose as demonstrated by Liu wherein a Fourier transformation (224, Figure 5) is performed in the process of processing the image data before it is fed to the display device (230, Figure 5). Fourier transformation has the advantage of reducing data points for processing. It would then have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the teachings of Liu to include such process in the display apparatus of Bloom et al for the advantage of reducing data points for processing before being displayed by the GLV or modulator so that better image quality can be achieved.

With regard to claims 2 and 3, Kajiki teaches that the scanning unit include a *vertical scanner* (4) and a *horizontal scanner* (3), which is a *polygonal mirror*, wherein the two scanners has scanning axes that are orthogonal to each other. The horizontal scanner (3) allows the horizontal parallax effect of the image is established and the vertical scanner (4) allows the vertical parallax effect of the image is established, (please see Figure 4). It is implicitly true that the directions of the scanning from both of the scanners, which referred to the actual direction of the light after the scanners, are also orthogonal to each

Art Unit: 2872

other and to the modulation elements for creating two-dimensionally *extended* image at the viewer position.

With regard to claim 4, Kajiki teaches to use a *diffusion plate* for reproducing and displaying the stereoscopic image to the observer.

With regard to claim 11, Kajiki teaches that the vertical scanner (4) includes a galvano mirror (8) and the horizontal scanner (3) may also include a galvano mirror, (please see Figure 4, column 9, lines 45-54).

With regard to claim 12, Kajiki teaches explicitly that *collimator lens* (22, Figure 11 or 14a, 14b in Figure 13) is used to make the modulated light from the modulator *collimated* to each other before entering the scanning units. The modulated light after being scanned is focused and Fourier transformed by the lens (2) and is directed to a *diffusion plate* (20) for allowing the image being displayed.

16. Claims 9-10 and claim 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patents issued to Kajiki, Bloom et al and Liu as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of the patent issued to Burr et al (PN. 5,550,779).

The three dimensional image display apparatus taught by **Kajiki** in combination of the teachings of **Bloom et al and Liu** have met all the limitations of the claims. Kajiki teaches that the scanning system comprises galvano mirror and polygonal mirror but it does not teach explicitly that it may also comprise staged mirror. The feature concerning the "volume hologram" is really not clear since the specification and the claims fail to give the proper structural relationship of the hologram with other elements of the display apparatus to determine the **function** of the volume hologram. It can only be examined with the broadest interpretation. **Burr** in the same field of the endeavor teaches a staged mirror, (14, 16 or 54) which can be diffractive grating elements (or therefore an holographic element), that is comprised of staged reflective elements, (please see Figures 2-4, 8 and 11) for directing light beam

Art Unit: 2872

to different vertical direction. It would then have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the structure of Kajiki to use staged mirror as alternative means for scanning the light for the benefit of allowing more efficient control of the scanning of the light beams. The order of the scanning is not crucial since both the instant application and the cited Kajiki reference teaches to use the scanners to provide two dimensional image from one dimensional modulator.

17. **Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent issued to Kajiki (PN. 5,694,235) in view of the patents issued to Bloom et al (PN. 6,215,579).**

Kajiki teaches a *three dimensional image display apparatus*, (Figure 9) that is comprised of a *light source array* (17) for radiating coherent light, a *spatial light modulator* (19), that has the function of modulating light of the source array in a *one-dimensional fashion*, (please see the one-dimensional arrangement of the modulated light from the modulator) and a *vertical scanning unit* (4) and a *polygon mirror scanning unit* (3) for scanning the modulated light to a predetermined direction of the observer (21) to enable three-dimensional image observation, (please see columns 7 and 9). Kajiki teaches explicitly that *collimator lens* (22, Figure 11 or 14a, 14b in Figure 13) is used to make the modulated light from the modulator *collimated* to each other. The modulated light after being scanned is focused and **Fourier transformed** by the lens (2) and is directed to a *diffusion plate* (20) for allowing the image being displayed. The diffusion plate is placed at the downstream of the Fourier transformation lens (2) and it is at the "surface" of the Fourier transformation lens in the sense of downstream of the lens.

This reference has met all the limitations of the claims with the exception that it does not teach explicitly that the spatial light modulator that modulates light in one-dimensional manner is a grating light valve (GLV) and does not teach explicitly that it has a plurality of one-dimensionally arrayed elements having top surfaces and the entire top surface of each elements is selectively moves upward and downward in the operation of the display. However grating light valve (GLV) is one of well known and

Art Unit: 2872

widely used spatial light modulators in the art, as explicitly taught by **Bloom**. **Bloom et al** teaches an *image display system* (400, Figure 14) wherein the system is comprised of a *light source having LEDs* (404R, 404G, 404B) for *generating laser beams* to illuminate a *Grating Light Valve* (402), which is an *one-dimensional spatial light modulator*, (please see Figure 10 for its one dimensional arrangement) for modulating the laser beams. The modulated laser beams are then *scanned* by a *scanning mirror* (432) to the *direction* and then the location of an observer (434) for displaying an **image**, (please see Figure 14, and columns 7-12). **Bloom et al** teaches that the *one dimensional grating light valve* has a plurality of *one-dimensionally arrayed elements* (200, Figures 7-18) that each of the elements has a *top surface* defined between the post position (110) and the *entire* top surface is selected to move upward and downward for modulating the light. The elements are *selectively* driven by applying the voltage and which means they could be independently driven as desired. It would then have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the teachings of **Bloom** to make the one dimensional modulator of **Kajiki** a grating light valve having the structure explicitly stated above for the benefit of allowing the modulation of the light from the light source array with greater efficiency and control which therefore ensure the image display quality.

18. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patents issued to **Kajiki**, and **Bloom et al** as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of the patent issued to **Burr et al** (PN. 5,550,779).

The three dimensional image display apparatus taught by **Kajiki** in combination of the teachings of **Bloom et al** have met all the limitations of the claims. **Kajiki** teaches that the scanning system comprises galvano mirror and polygonal mirror but it does not teach explicitly that it may also comprise staged mirror. **Burr** in the same field of the endeavor teaches a staged mirror, (14, 16 or 54) which can be diffractive grating elements (or therefore an holographic element), that is comprised of staged

Art Unit: 2872

reflective elements, (please see Figures 2-4, 8 and 11) for directing light beam to different vertical direction. It would then have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the structure of Kajiki to use staged mirror as alternative means for scanning the light for the benefit of allowing more efficient control of the scanning of the light beams.

19. **Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patents issued to Kajiki, and Liu as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of the patent issued to Burr et al (PN. 5,550,779).**

The three dimensional image display apparatus taught by **Kajiki** in combination of the teachings of **Liu** have met all the limitations of the claims. Kajiki teaches that the scanning system comprises galvano mirror and polygonal mirror but it does not teach explicitly that is may also comprised staged mirror. **Burr** in the same field of the endeavor teaches a staged mirror, (14, 16 or 54) which can be diffractive grating elements (or therefore an holographic element), that is comprised of staged reflective elements, (please see Figures 2-4, 8 and 11) for directing light beam to different vertical direction. It would then have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the structure of Kajiki to use staged mirror as alternative means for scanning the light for the benefit of allowing more efficient control of the scanning of the light beams.

Response to Arguments

20. Applicant's arguments filed March 3, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The amended claims have been fully considered and they are rejected for the reasons stated above.

21. In response to applicant's arguments which state that "Liu discloses storing and transformed data and converting the data to a format for display but does not show or suggest using the stored transformed

Art Unit: 2872

data to control a modulator” which therefore differs from the instant application the examiner respectfully disagrees for the reasons stated below. Just like the applicant’s admission, the cited Liu reference teaches a *data processing method* including Fourier transforming the image data to make it have a format fit for display on a monitor or spatial light modulator. In order for the transformed image to be displayed on the spatial light modulator, the modulator has to be *controlled* according to the transformed image data, for other wise the image simply cannot be displayed. This is true for any spatial light modulator.

22. The applicant is respectfully noted, the specification and the claims fail to disclose what is this Fourier transformation and what nature of the transformation is being performed here this feature therefore cannot be defined here with any means other than arbitrary image data processing. Image data processing using Fourier transformation technique is extremely well known in the art. The Fourier transformation claimed here is only one data processing step for allowing the image data to be displayed on the grating light valve or spatial light modulator. Any image displayed on the spatial light modulator therefore can implicitly assume to have been processed through image data processing steps including Fourier transformation.

23. Applicant seems to confuse between the operation of the display apparatus by using coherent light being modulated by the spatial light modulator to be **imparted** with image information stored in the spatial light modulator and the image data processing step for preparing the image data to be fitted and stored in the spatial light modulator. The image data has first to be inputted in the spatial light modulator before the spatial light modulator can be used to modulate the coherent light. Claims 1, 7 and 8 at this juncture have confused and mixed the two different functions which make the device non-operable.

Contact Information

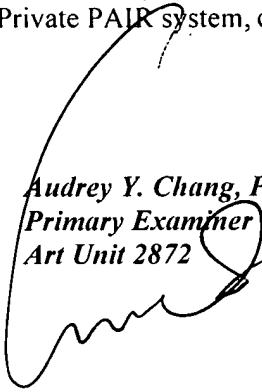
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Audrey Y. Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-2309. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30), alternative Mondays off.

Art Unit: 2872

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2872



A. Chang, Ph.D.